

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/767,398	SPITZ, CHARLES F.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Grigory Gurshman	2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/14/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-39 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - 2.1 Referring to claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-17, 19, 20, 23-29, 31, 32, and 35-39 Forde discloses a computer-bases method of applying a set of digital business signing rules for the processing of electronic documents. The method verifies the identity of an authorized user using a predefined verification protocol. Then a set of privileges associated with said authorized user is determined (page 5, lines 7-11). This meets the limitation of "comparing information obtained thereby to the access control rules stored in said database to determine whether the authorized use is authorized to have the document signed." The digital signature is attached to the electronic document (page 5, line 14). Forde also discloses an exemplary list of authorized users and their associated privileges in Table 1 (page 10, line 2), which meets the limitation of "a database holding access control rules that identify documents authorized users are allowed to have electronically signed." However, Forde does not teach that the *signing system signs the documents using signing system authentication information and the signing system authentication information is used to sign the document regardless of which of the plurality of users requested the document be signed.*
 - 2.2 Furthermore, Forde doesn't teach parsing the document. Referring to the instant claims Brown discloses a parser, which parses the document to identify the portion to be signed by the signer (Brown: page 12, last paragraph). However, Brown does not

teach that the *signing system signs the documents using signing system authentication information.*

2.3 Therefore, the combination of Forde with Brown does not render the instant claims obvious.

2.4 Claims 4, 18, 7-9, 21, 22, 30, 33, and 34 were rejected over the combination of Forde and Brown in view Kelly and Lee. The combination of Forde and Brown with either Kelly or Lee does not render the claims obvious, because Forde and Brown do not teach that the *signing system signs the documents using signing system authentication information and the signing system authentication information is used to sign the document regardless of which of the plurality of users requested the document be signed.*

3. In view of the reasons presented herein claims 1-39 are in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Grigory Gurshman whose telephone number is (571)272-3803. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571)272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit 2132

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